

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-9 (canceled)

10. (currently amended): A method of conducting an interview of at least one respondent using an interview system, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) presenting at least one interview question to a respondent;

(b) presenting a map using the interview system; and

(c) receiving as a response from the respondent an indication of a location-input from the respondent in response to the at least one interview question presented in step (a), wherein the received response is not predetermined by the interview system.

11. (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 10, wherein said receiving step (c) comprises the step of receiving, as the indication of a location-input, an input point on the map presented in step (b).

12. (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 10, wherein said receiving step (c) comprises the step of receiving, as the indication of a location-input, an input region on the map presented in step (b).

13. (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 12, wherein said receiving step (c) further comprises receiving as the input region a proximate area having one of a circular, elliptical, and rectangular shape surrounding a point on the map presented in step (b).

14. (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 10, further comprising the step of:

(d) geocoding the location-input received in step (c).

15. (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 14, wherein said geocoding step (d) comprises determining the latitude and longitude of the location-input.

16. (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 15, wherein said geocoding step (d) further comprises determining a proximate area based on the indication of a location-input received in step (c).

17. (currently amended): An article of manufacture for use in conducting an interview and providing accurate location responses to interview questions, the article of manufacture comprising a machine-readable storage medium having stored therein indicia of a plurality of machine-executable control program steps, the control program comprising the steps of:

(a) issuing one of a series of interview questions;

(b) in response to a given interview question of the series of interview questions issued in step (a), receiving a location response, wherein the location response is not predetermined;

(c) determining the validity of the location response received in step (b);

(d) if the location response is determined in step (c) to be invalid, reissuing the given interview question and receiving a graphical input as a location response in repeating steps (b) and (c).

18. (previously presented): The control program of claim 17, wherein step (d) further comprises providing a map display used to facilitate the graphical input response to the given question.

19. (previously presented): The control program of claim 17, wherein if the location response is determined in step (c) to be valid, repeating steps (a) through (d) for a subsequent question in the series of questions.

20. (previously presented): The control program of claim 17, wherein said step (b) provides for confidential location responses by permitting a respondent to provide an answer that indicates an approximate location.

21. (previously presented): The control program of claim 17, wherein said step (b) initially provides for a textual input of a location response in the form of an alphanumeric address.

22. (previously presented): The control program of claim 17, wherein said step (b) alternatively provides for a textual and graphical input of an initial location response.

23. (currently amended): A system for providing accurate responses to location questions posed during the administration of a computer assisted self interview, the system comprising:

a question display, wherein said question display provides a display of questions to a respondent;

a map display, wherein said map display provides a display of a map to said respondent;

an input device, wherein said input device provides for both textual and graphical input by a respondent of an input location in response to a location question, wherein the textual input is entered through a textbox and the graphical input is entered through graphical indications on said map display; and

a geocoding processor, wherein said processor is programmed to perform geocoding on the input location provided by said input device,

wherein the input location received by the respondent is not determined by the system in advance.

24. (previously presented): The system as recited in claim 23, wherein said input device provides a selectable input between textual and graphical inputs, and wherein said geocoding processor performs geocoding on the input location immediately after entry by said input device.

25. (previously presented): The system set forth in claim 23, wherein said input device identifies as the respondent input location an exact location on the map provided on said map display.

26. (previously presented): The system set forth in claim 23, wherein said input device permits graphical input in the form of highlighting a region on said map display that identifies an approximate location as the input location.

27. (previously presented): The system set forth in claim 26, wherein the region highlighted using the graphical input is a census tract.

28. (previously presented): The system set forth in claim 23, wherein said geocoding processor is programmed to provide a unique point specification of a place representative of an input location.

29. (previously presented): The system set forth in claim 23, wherein said question display and map display are provided on a single computer monitor display.